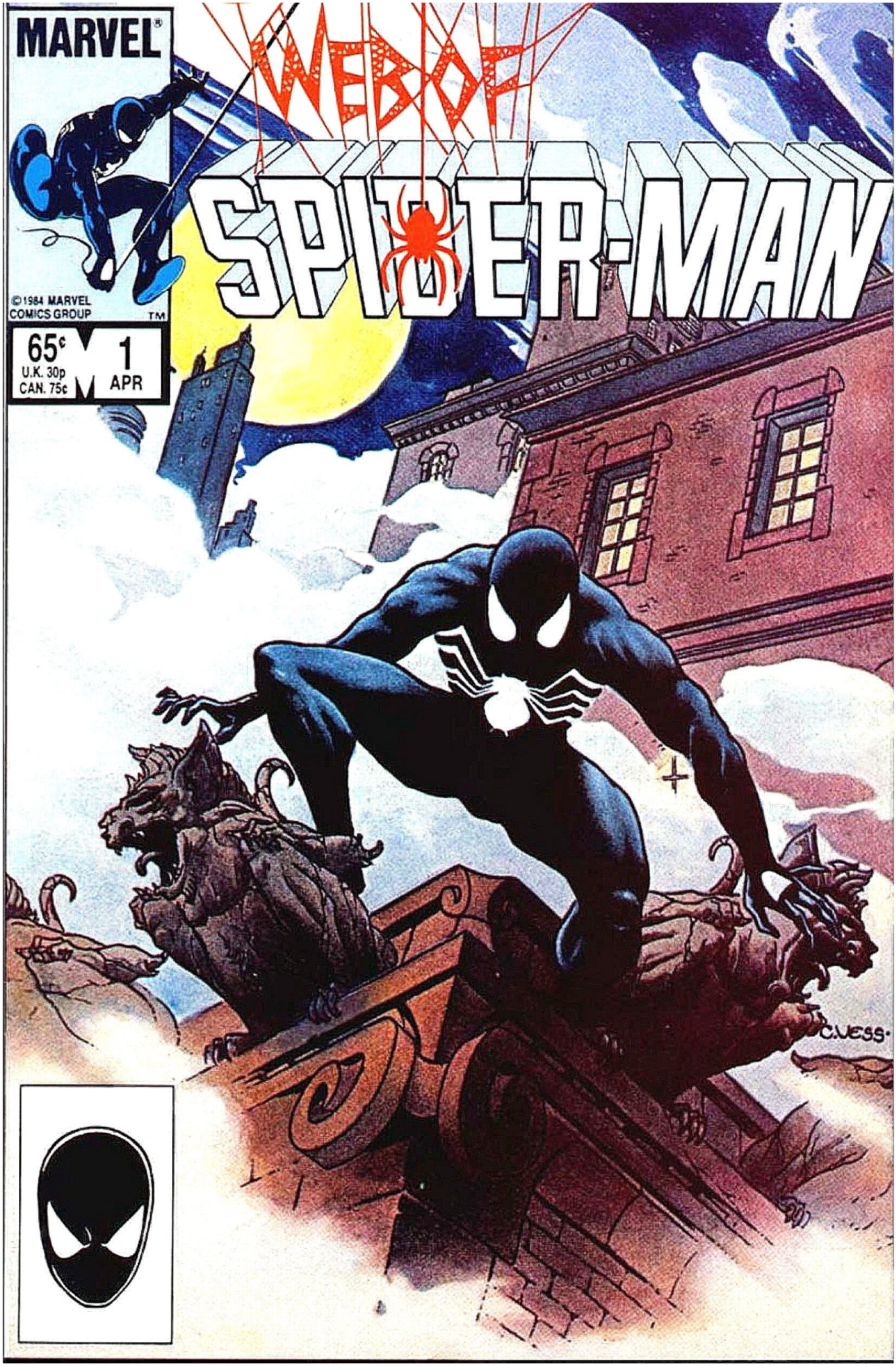
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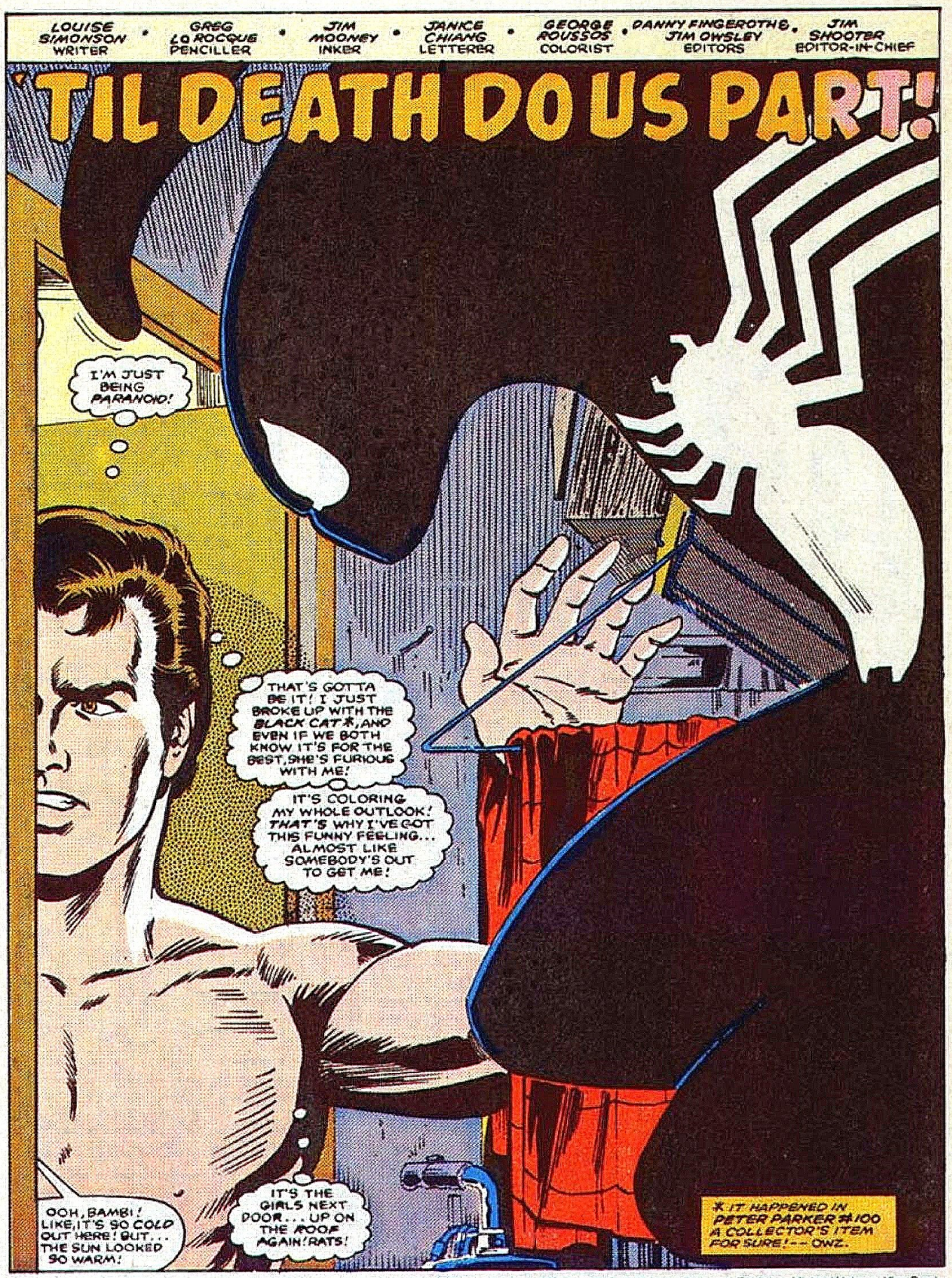
LOUISE SIMONSON WRITER
GREG LaROCQUE PENCILLER
JIM MOONEY INKER
JANICE CHIANG LETTERER
GEORGE ROUSSOS COLORIST
DANNY FINGEROTH & JIM OWSLEY EDITORS
JIM SHOOTER EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
'TIL DEATH DO US PART!
I'M JUST BEING PARANOID!
THAT'S GOTTA BE IT! I JUST BROKE UP WITH THE BLACK CAT*, AND EVEN IF WE BOTH KNOW IT'S FOR THE BEST, SHE'S FURIOUS WITH ME!
IT'S COLORING MY WHOLE OUTLOOK! THAT'S WHY I'VE GOT THIS FUNNY FEELING... ALMOST LIKE SOMEBODY'S OUT TO GET ME!
OOH, BAMBI! LIKE, IT'S SO COLD OUT HERE! BUT... THE SUN LOOKED SO WARM!
IT'S THE GIRLS NEXT DOOR... UP ON THE ROOF AGAIN! RATS!
* IT HAPPENED IN PETER PARKER #100 A COLLECTOR'S ITEM FOR SURE! -- OWZ.

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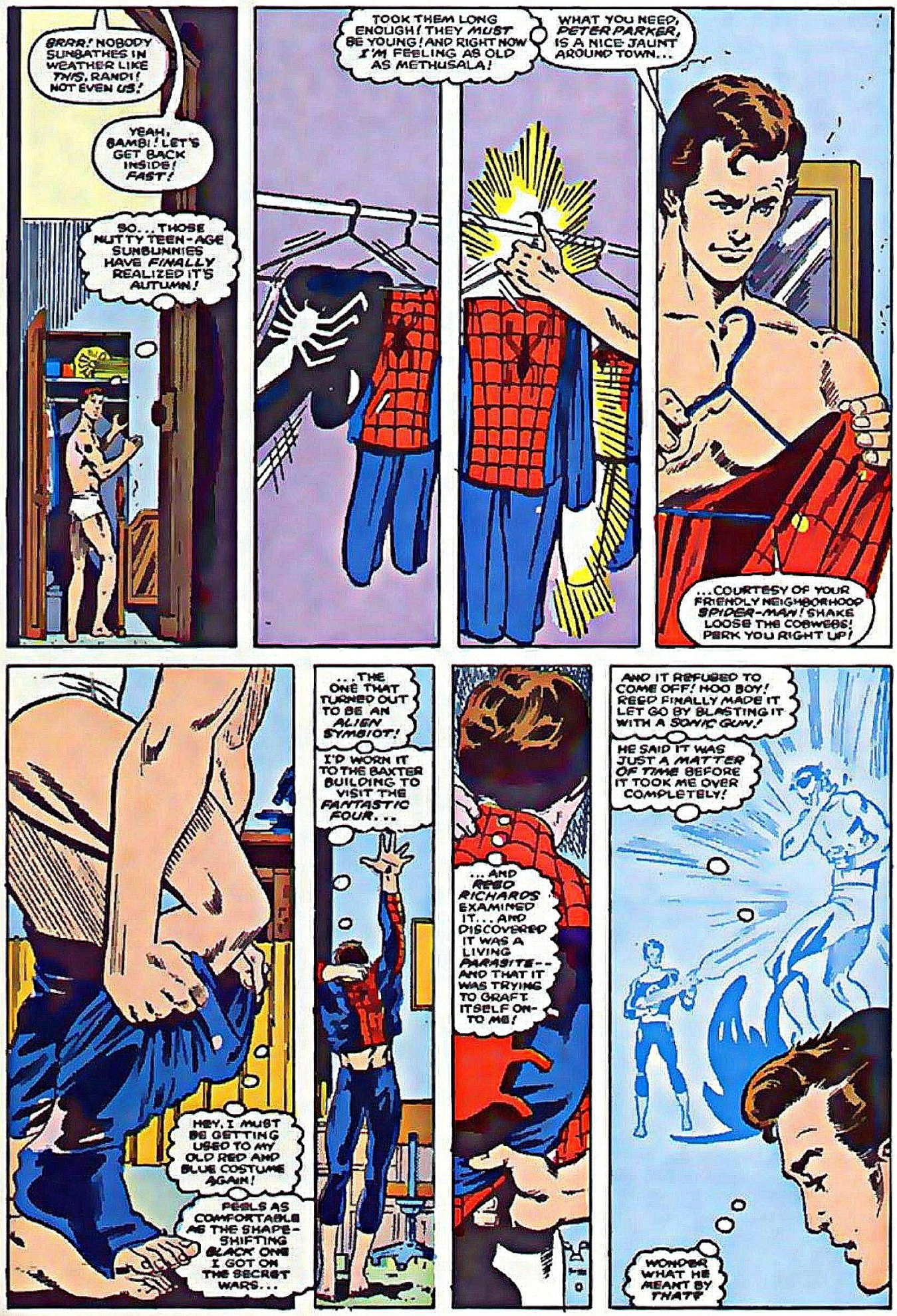
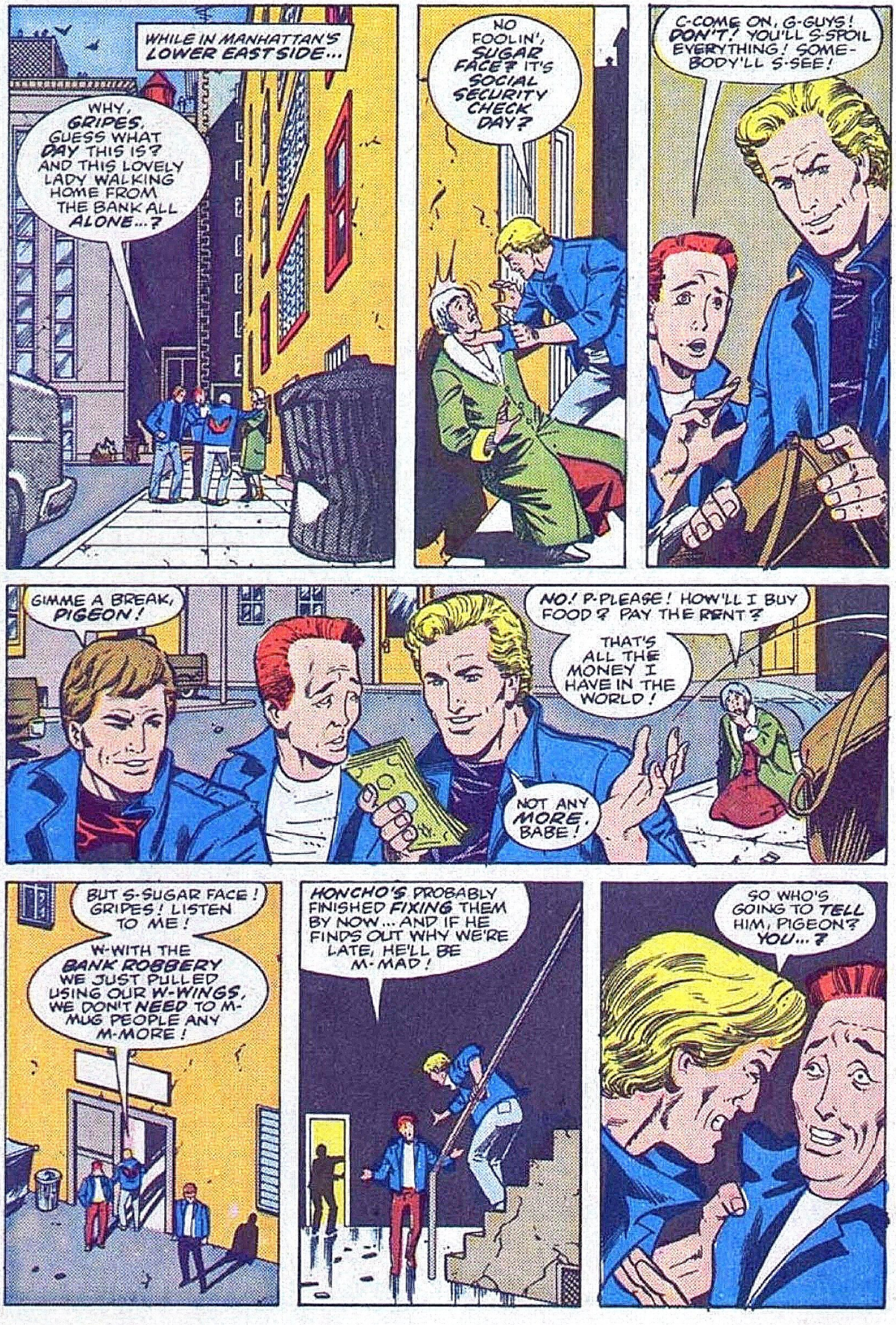
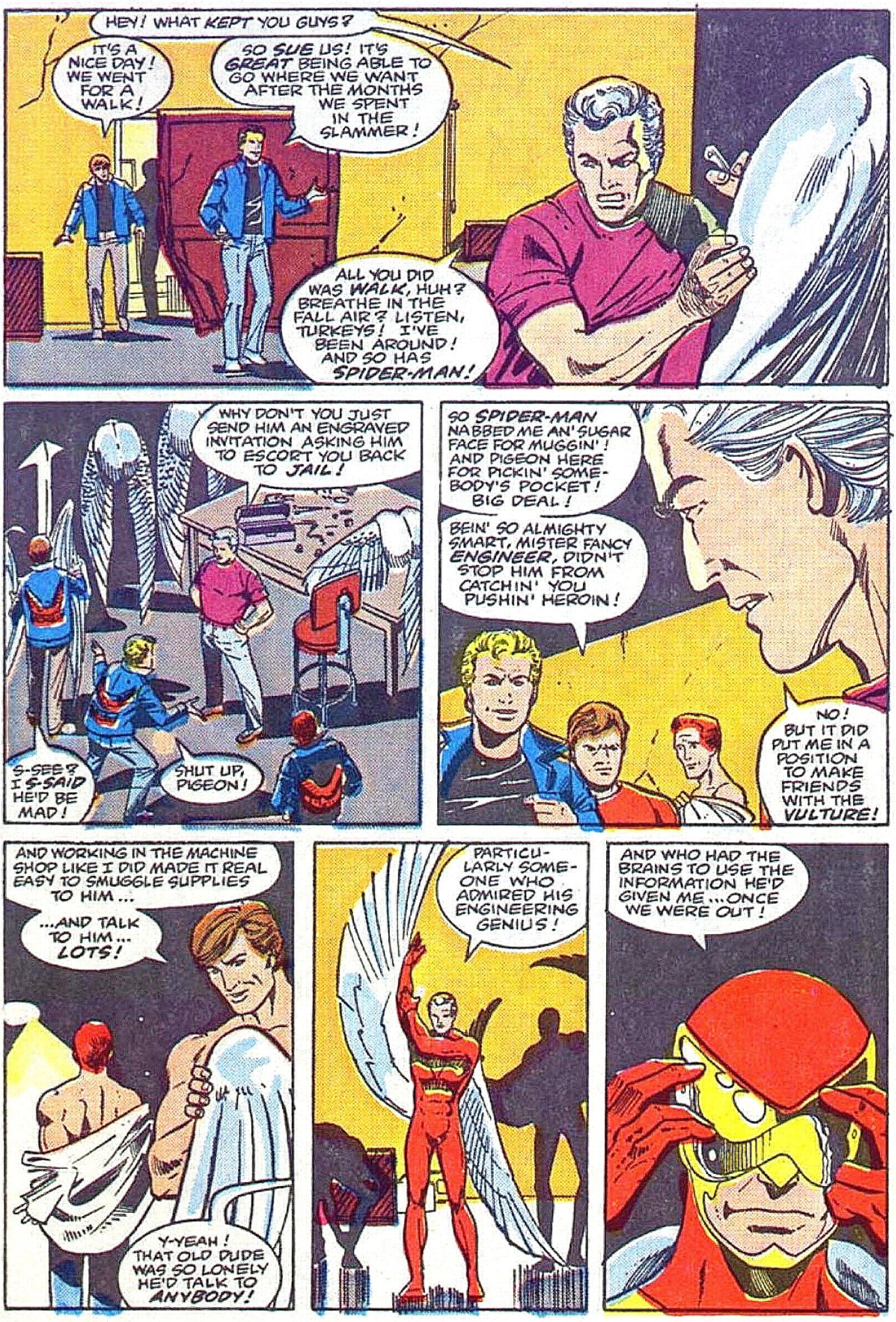
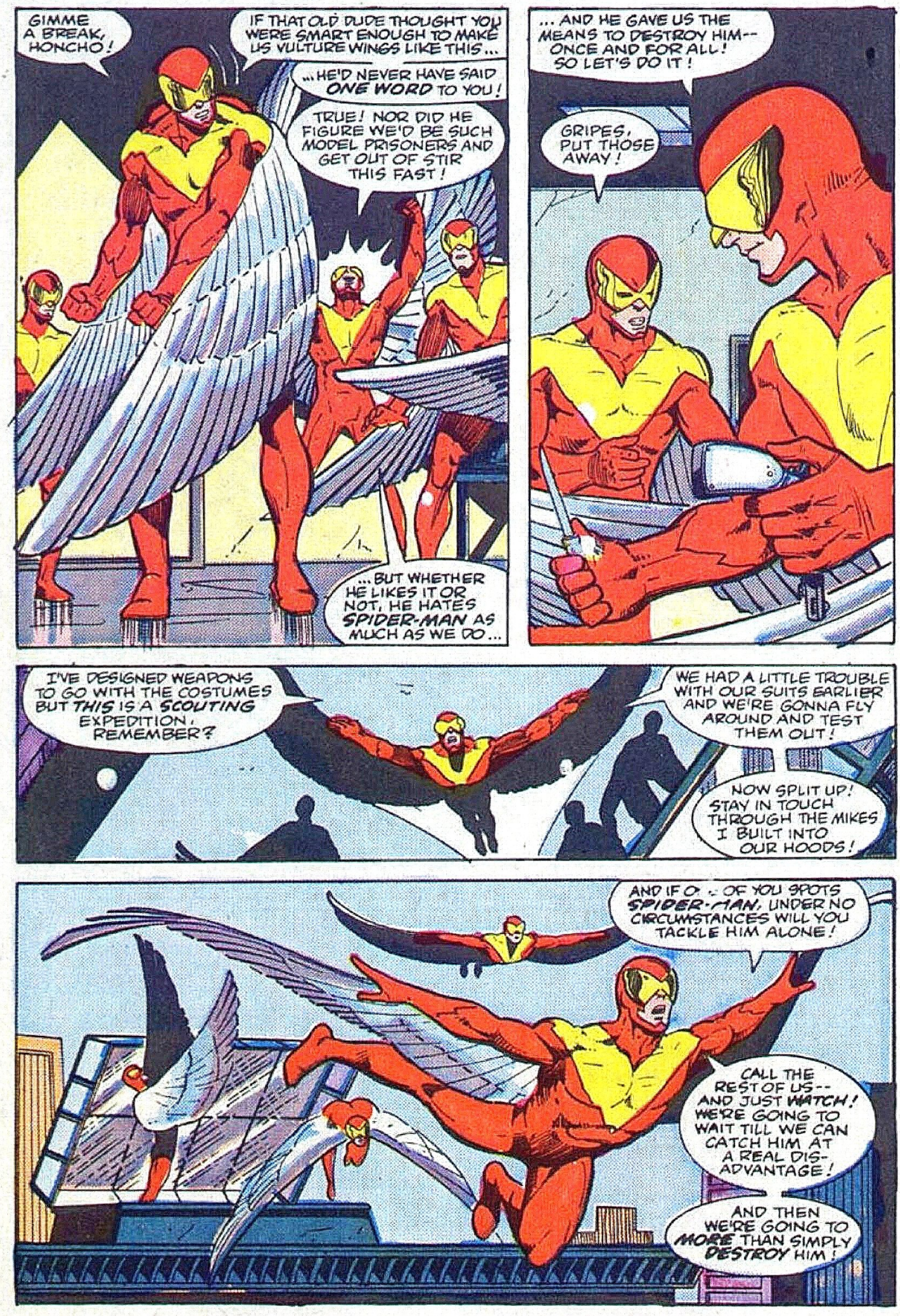
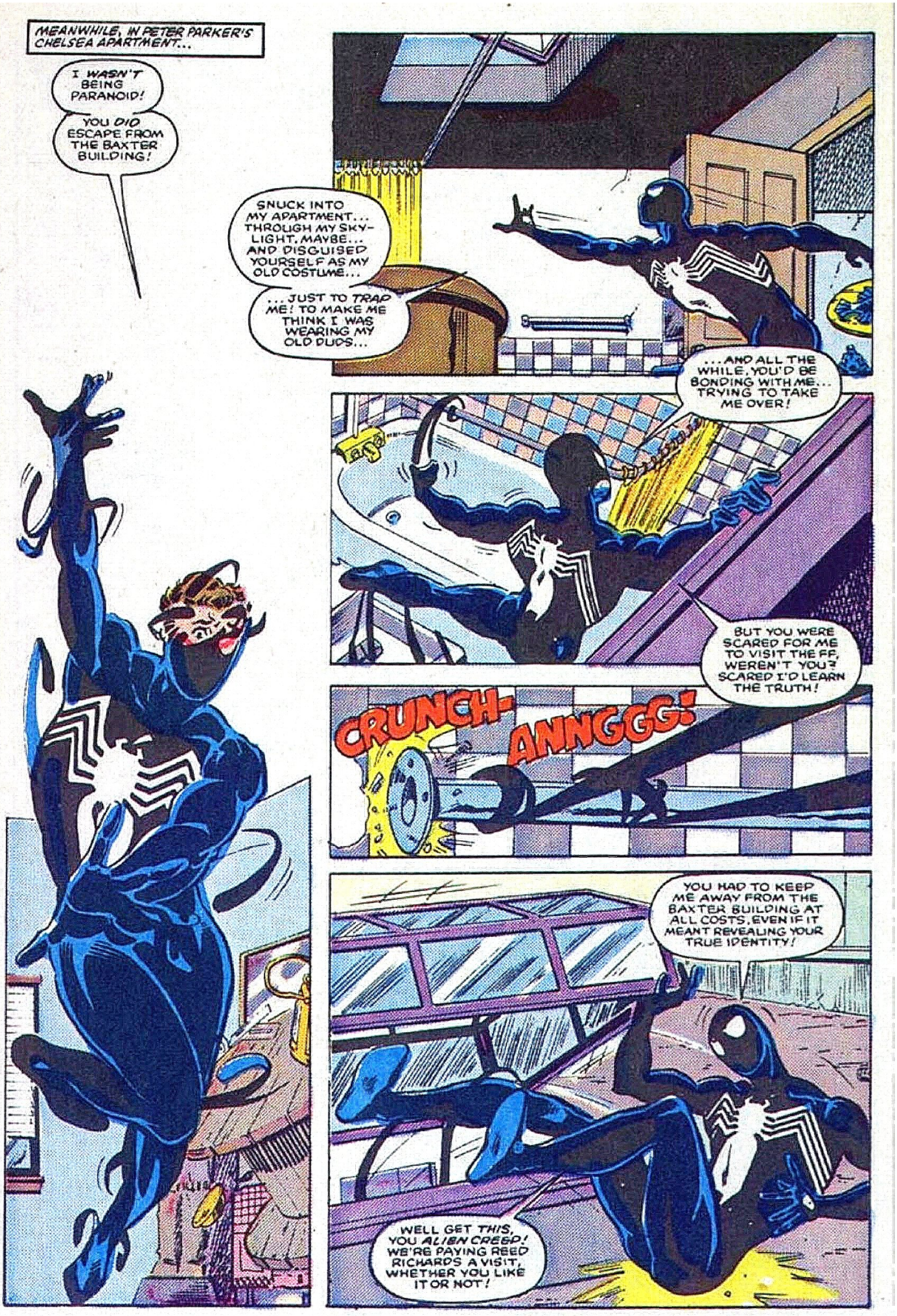

BRRR! NOBODY SUNBATHES IN WEATHER LIKE THIS, RANDI! NOT EVEN US!
YEAH, BAMBI! LET'S GET BACK INSIDE! FAST!
SO... THOSE NUTTY TEEN-AGE SUNBUNNIES HAVE FINALLY REALIZED IT'S AUTUMN!
TOOK THEM LONG ENOUGH! THEY MUST BE YOUNG! AND RIGHT NOW I'M FEELING AS OLD AS METHUSALA!
WHAT YOU NEED, PETER PARKER, IS A NICE JAUNT AROUND TOWN...
...COURTESY OF YOUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD SPIDER-MAN! SHAKE LOOSE THE COBWEBS! PERK YOU RIGHT UP!
HEY, I MUST BE GETTING USED TO MY OLD RED AND BLUE COSTUME AGAIN!
FEELS AS COMFORTABLE AS THE SHAPE-SHIFTING BLACK ONE I GOT ON THE SECRET WARS...
...THE ONE THAT TURNED OUT TO BE AN ALIEN SYMBIOT!
I'D WORN IT TO THE BAXTER BUILDING TO VISIT THE FANTASTIC FOUR...
...AND REED RICHARDS EXAMINED IT... AND DISCOVERED IT WAS A LIVING PARASITE--AND THAT IT WAS TRYING TO GRAFT ITSELF ON-TO ME!
AND IT REFUSED TO COME OFF! HOO BOY! REED FINALLY MADE IT LET GO BY BLASTING IT WITH A SONIC GUN!
HE SAID IT WAS JUST A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE IT TOOK ME OVER COMPLETELY!
WONDER WHAT HE MEANT BY THAT?

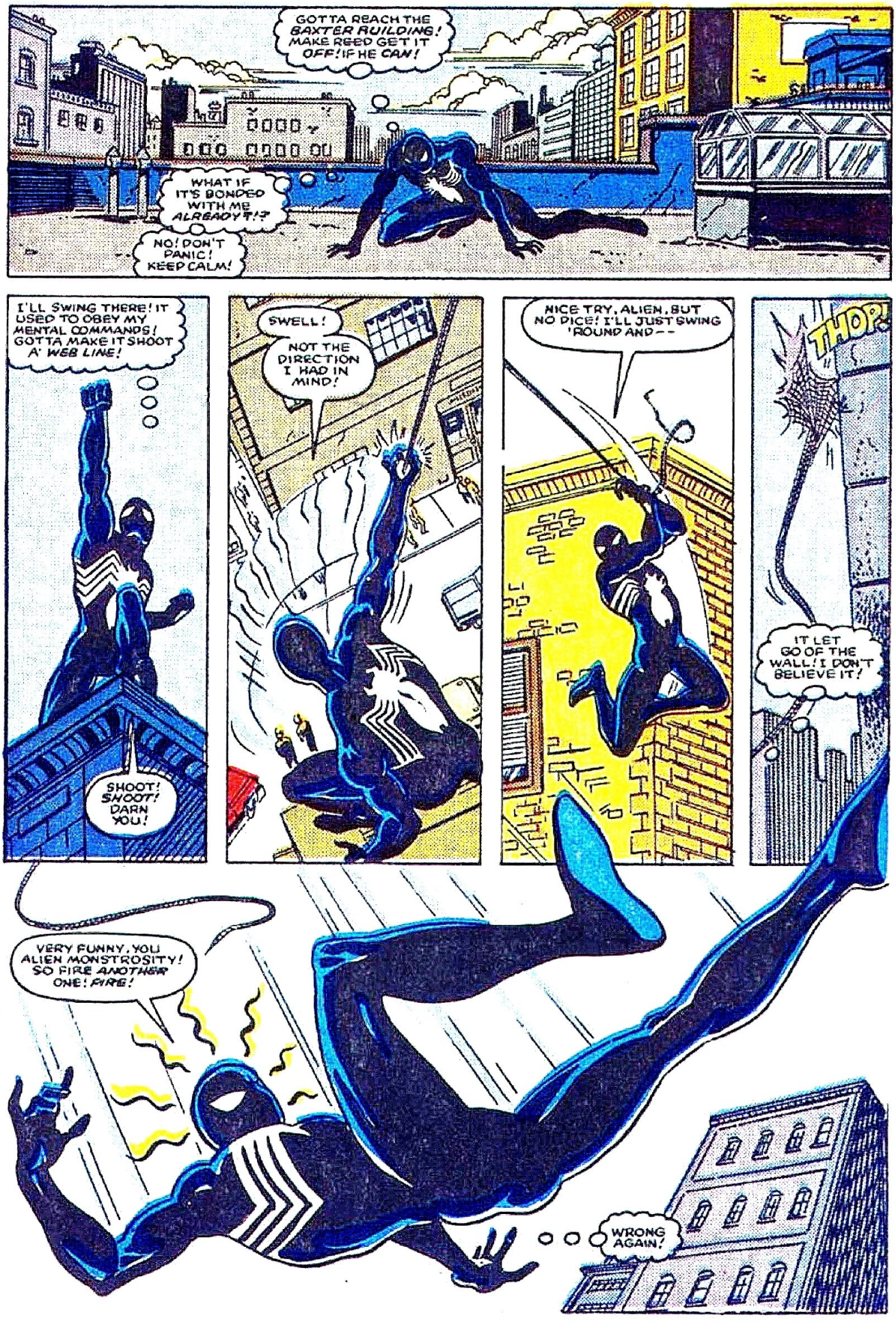
I GUESS WHAT'S REALLY WORRYING ME ARE THE RUMORS ABOUT A BLACK SHADOW SNAKING AROUND TOWN AND TAKING PEOPLE OVER!
MAYBE I SHOULD CALL REED, JUST TO MAKE SURE MY ALIEN COSTUME'S STILL LOCKED AWAY!
OLYMPIC 1000
AW! SURE IT IS! THE FF DON'T KNOW MY SECRET IDENTITY, BUT IF IT HAD ESCAPED, THEY'D HAVE CONTACTED ME SOMEHOW...
...WOULDN'T THEY?
EMPTY! GOTTA ADD NEW WEB FLUID TO MY WEB SHOOTERS AND...
HEY, WHERE'S MY CARTRIDGE BELT? AND MY HOOD AND GLOVES? PROBABLY DROPPED INTO THE BOTTOM OF THE CLOSET!
DARN! SERVES YOU RIGHT, PARKER, FOR HANGING IT UP, INSTEAD OF THROWING IT ON THE CHAIR AS USUAL!
I STILL HAVE THIS FUNNY FEELING, THOUGH! THINK I'LL VISIT REED SOON AS I'M DRESSED!
JUST TO MAKE SURE!
OH...
NO!


WHILE IN MANHATTAN'S LOWER EAST SIDE...
WHY, GRIPES, GUESS WHAT DAY THIS IS? AND THIS LOVELY LADY WALKING HOME FROM THE BANK ALL ALONE...?
NO FOOLIN', SUGAR FACE? IT'S SOCIAL SECURITY CHECK DAY?
C-COME ON, G-GUYS! DON'T! YOU'LL S-SPOIL EVERYTHING! SOMEBODY'LL S-SEE!
GIMME A BREAK, PIGEON!
NO! P-PLEASE! HOW'LL I BUY FOOD? PAY THE RENT?
THAT'S ALL THE MONEY I HAVE IN THE WORLD!
NOT ANY MORE, BABE!
BUT S-SUGAR FACE! GRIPES! LISTEN TO ME!
W-WITH THE BANK ROBBERY WE JUST PULLED USING OUR W-WINGS, WE DON'T NEED TO M-MUG PEOPLE ANY M-MORE!
HONCHO'S PROBABLY FINISHED FIXING THEM BY NOW... AND IF HE FINDS OUT WHY WE'RE LATE, HE'LL BE M-MAD!
SO WHO'S GOING TO TELL HIM, PIGEON? YOU...?


HEY! WHAT KEPT YOU GUYS?
IT'S A NICE DAY! WE WENT FOR A WALK!
SO SUE US! IT'S GREAT BEING ABLE TO GO WHERE WE WANT AFTER THE MONTHS WE SPENT IN THE SLAMMER!
ALL YOU DID WAS WALK, HUH? BREATHE IN THE FALL AIR? LISTEN, TURKEYS! I'VE BEEN AROUND! AND SO HAS SPIDER-MAN!
WHY DON'T YOU JUST SEND HIM AN ENGRAVED INVITATION ASKING HIM TO ESCORT YOU BACK TO JAIL!
S-SEE? I S-SAID HE'D BE MAD!
SHUT UP, PIGEON!
SO SPIDER-MAN NABBED ME AN' SUGAR FACE FOR MUGGIN'! AND PIGEON HERE FOR PICKIN' SOMEBODY'S POCKET! BIG DEAL!
BEIN' SO ALMIGHTY SMART, MISTER FANCY ENGINEER, DIDN'T STOP HIM FROM CATCHIN' YOU PUSHIN' HEROIN!
NO! BUT IT DID PUT ME IN A POSITION TO MAKE FRIENDS WITH THE VULTURE!
AND WORKING IN THE MACHINE SHOP LIKE I DID MADE IT REAL EASY TO SMUGGLE SUPPLIES TO HIM...
...AND TALK TO HIM... LOTS!
Y-YEAH! THAT OLD DUDE WAS SO LONELY HE'D TALK TO ANYBODY!
PARTICULARLY SOMEONE WHO ADMIRED HIS ENGINEERING GENIUS!
AND WHO HAD THE BRAINS TO USE THE INFORMATION HE'D GIVEN ME...ONCE WE WERE OUT!

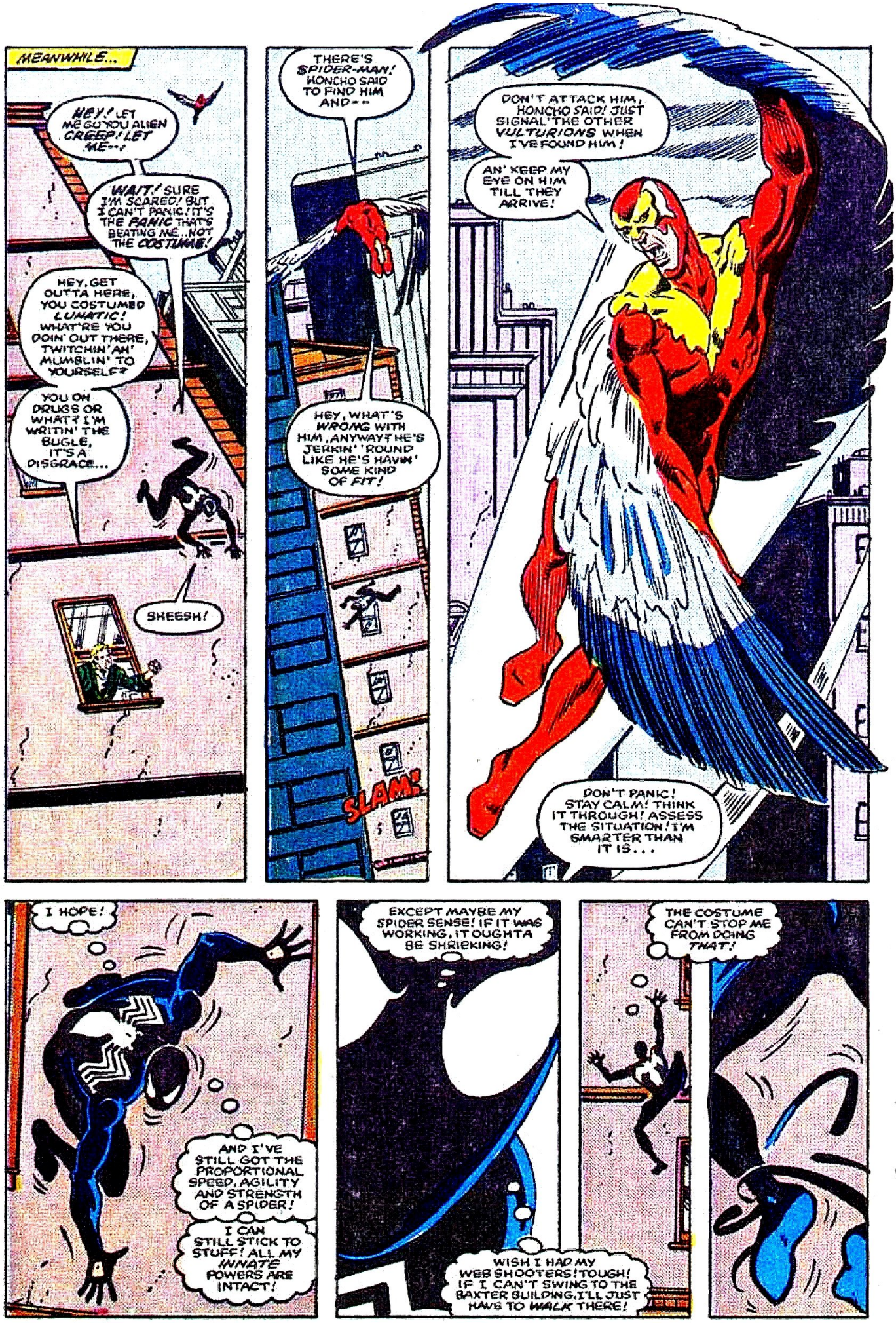

GIMME A BREAK, HONCHO!
IF THAT OLD DUDE THOUGHT YOU WERE SMART ENOUGH TO MAKE US VULTURE WINGS LIKE THIS...
...HE'D NEVER HAVE SAID ONE WORD TO YOU!
TRUE! NOR DID HE FIGURE WE'D BE SUCH MODEL PRISONERS AND GET OUT OF STIR THIS FAST!
...BUT WHETHER HE LIKES IT OR NOT, HE HATES SPIDER-MAN AS MUCH AS WE DO...
...AND HE GAVE US THE MEANS TO DESTROY HIM-- ONCE AND FOR ALL! SO LET'S DO IT!
GRIPES, PUT THOSE AWAY!
I'VE DESIGNED WEAPONS TO GO WITH THE COSTUMES BUT THIS IS A SCOUTING EXPEDITION, REMEMBER?
WE HAD A LITTLE TROUBLE WITH OUR SUITS EARLIER AND WE'RE GONNA FLY AROUND AND TEST THEM OUT!
NOW SPLIT UP! STAY IN TOUCH THROUGH THE MIKES I BUILT INTO OUR HOODS!
AND IF O- OF YOU SPOTS SPIDER-MAN, UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WILL YOU TACKLE HIM ALONE!
CALL THE REST OF US-- AND JUST WATCH! WE'RE GOING TO WAIT TILL WE CAN CATCH HIM AT A REAL DIS-ADVANTAGE!
AND THEN WE'RE GOING TO MORE THAN SIMPLY DESTROY HIM!

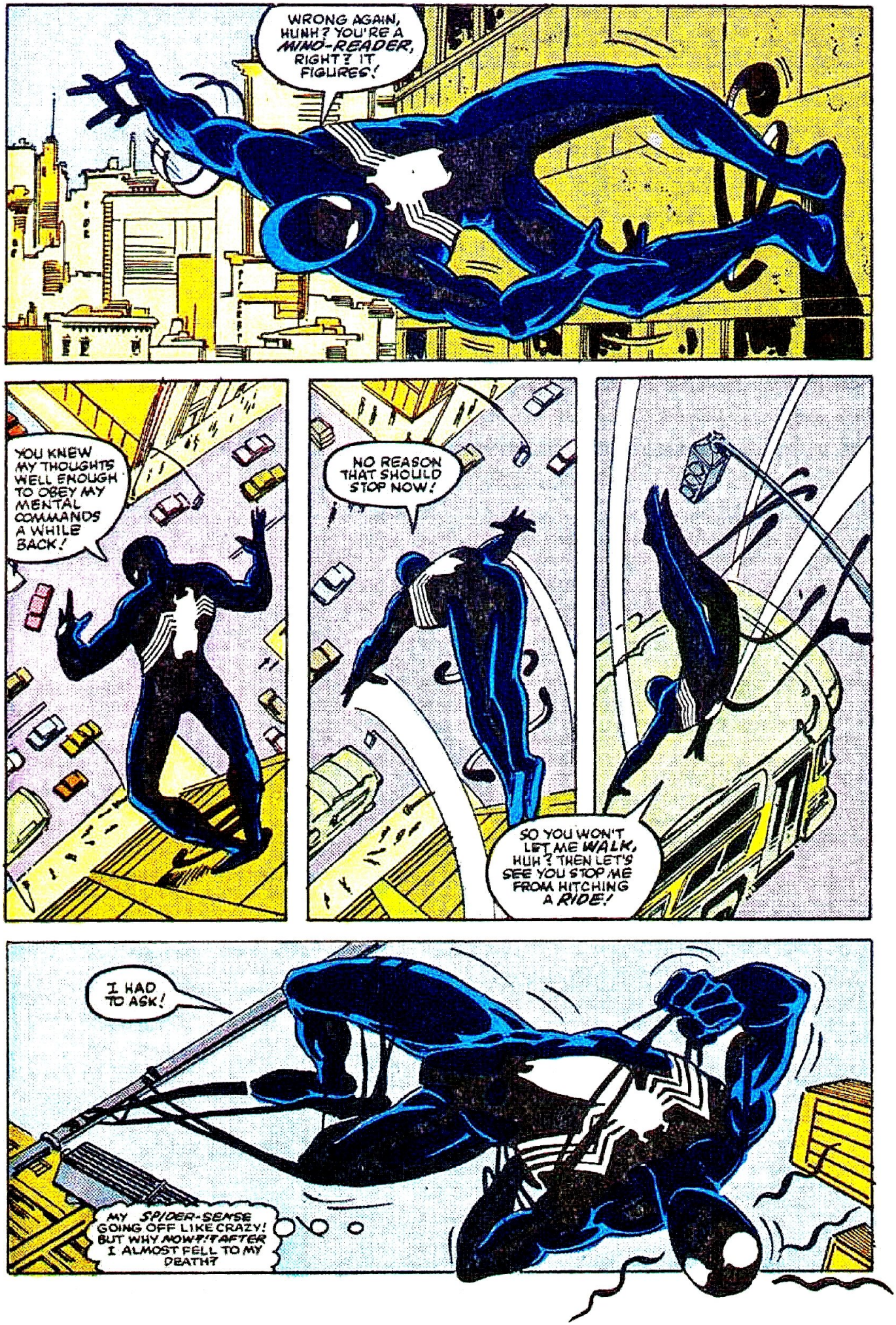

MEANWHILE, IN PETER PARKER'S CHELSEA APARTMENT...
I WASN'T BEING PARANOID!
YOU DID ESCAPE FROM THE BAXTER BUILDING!
SNUCK INTO MY APARTMENT... THROUGH MY SKY-LIGHT, MAYBE... AND DISGUISED YOURSELF AS MY OLD COSTUME...
... JUST TO TRAP ME! TO MAKE ME THINK I WAS WEARING MY OLD DUDS...
... AND ALL THE WHILE, YOU'D BE BONDING WITH ME... TRYING TO TAKE ME OVER!
BUT YOU WERE SCARED FOR ME TO VISIT THE FF, WEREN'T YOU? SCARED I'D LEARN THE TRUTH!
CRUNCH-
ANNGGG!
YOU HAD TO KEEP ME AWAY FROM THE BAXTER BUILDING AT ALL COSTS, EVEN IF IT MEANT REVEALING YOUR TRUE IDENTITY!
WELL GET THIS, YOU ALIEN CREEP! WE'RE PAYING REED RICHARDS A VISIT, WHETHER YOU LIKE IT OR NOT!


GOTTA REACH THE BAXTER BUILDING! MAKE REED GET IT OFF! IF HE CAN!
WHAT IF IT'S BONDED WITH ME ALREADY?!?
NO! DON'T PANIC! KEEP CALM!
I'LL SWING THERE! IT USED TO OBEY MY MENTAL COMMANDS! GOTTA MAKE IT SHOOT A' WEB LINE!
SHOOT! SHOOT! DARN YOU!
SWELL!
NOT THE DIRECTION I HAD IN MIND!
NICE TRY, ALIEN, BUT NO DICE! I'LL JUST SWING 'ROUND AND--
THOP!
IT LET GO OF THE WALL! I DON'T BELIEVE IT!
VERY FUNNY, YOU ALIEN MONSTROSITY! SO FIRE ANOTHER ONE! FIRE!
WRONG AGAIN!

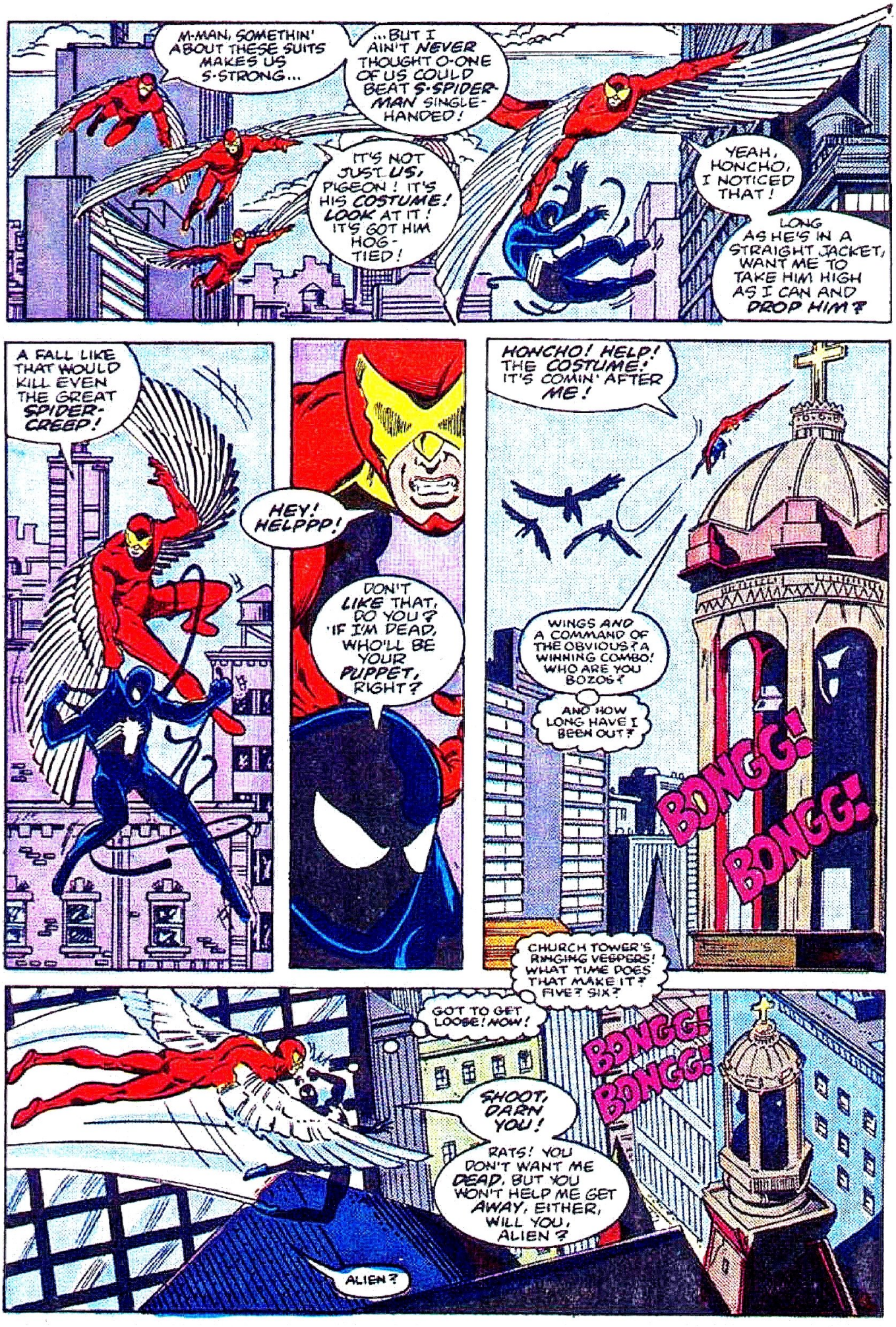
GE- OFF OF ME, ALIEN!
BLAST YOU, GET OFF!
HEY! CAN'T LET GO OF THE POLE!
AND NOW I'M SWINGING BACK-WARDS!
TRYING TO MAKE ME YOUR PUPPET, ARE YOU, MONSTER?
CRASH!
WELL, IT WON'T WORK!
SMASH!
CAN'T LET IT WORK! CAN'T--
OUCH.
SLAM!

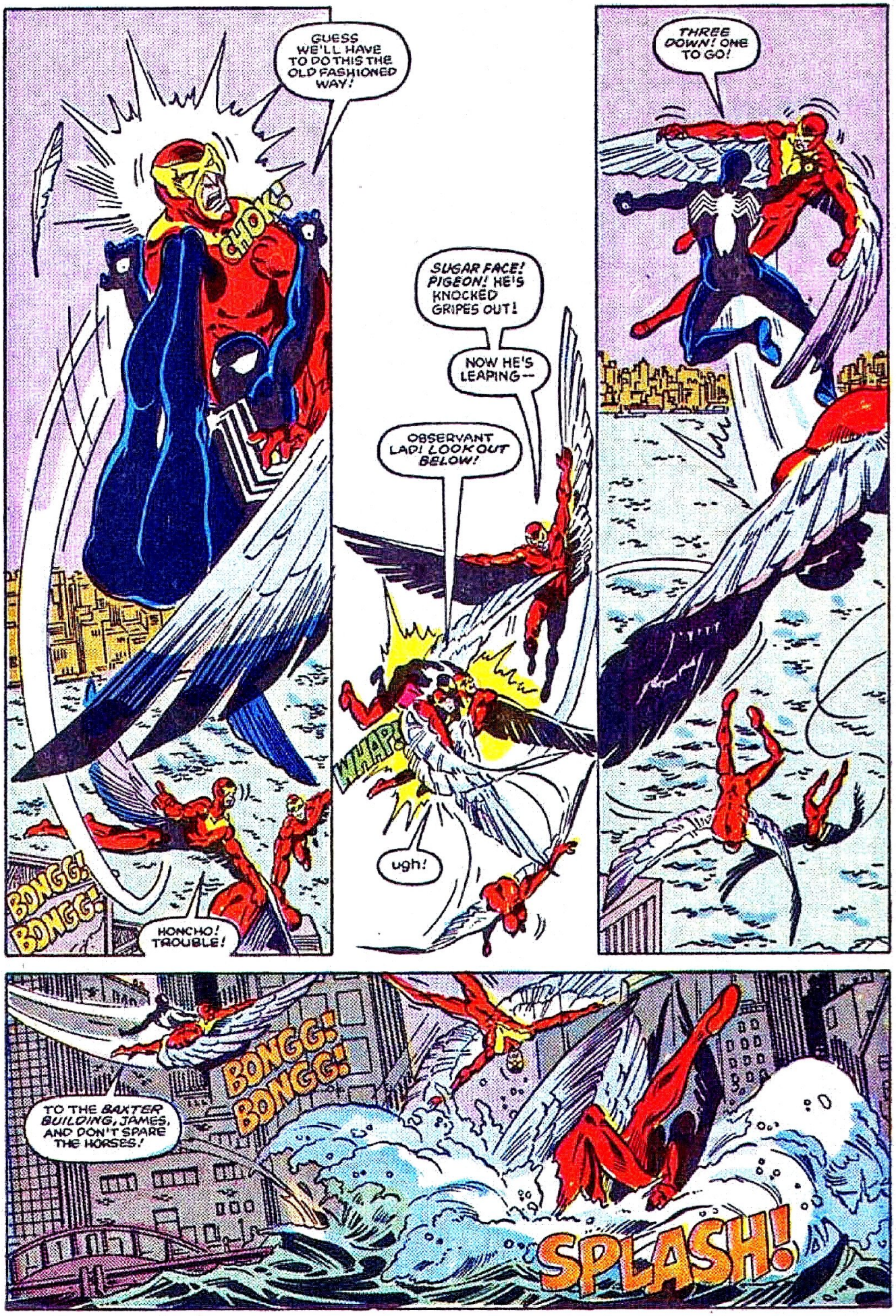
WHILE BLOCKS AWAY...
MAY! MAY PARKER!
MARY JANE! WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?
BUYING A PRESENT FOR THE OSBORNES' NEW BABY! PETE AND I ARE THE GOD PARENTS!
I DIDN'T KNOW! I HADN'T SPOKEN TO MY NEPHEW SINCE WE HAD OUR ARGUMENT!
I'M FURIOUS AT HIM FOR DROPPING HIS GRADUATE STUDIES IN BIO-PHYSICS!
I-I'VE HEARD! BUT MAY, BEING A PHOTOGRAPHER'S NO DISGRACE! AND PETE'S GOOD!
LOOK! HIS SPIDER-MAN PHOTO'S IN THE BUGLE AGAIN!
SPIDER-MAN IS A MENACE, MARY JANE! I'VE READ THE BUGLE'S EDITORIALS!
I DON'T LIKE PETER TRAIPSING ALL OVER TOWN AFTER HIM! AND THAT'S NOT THE POINT! PETER LET HIS DREAM DIE!
BUT MAY, WHAT IF HE HAS A NEW DREAM? DOES IT MATTER WHAT HE DOES AS LONG AS HE'S HAPPY?
BUT HE WAS HAPPY BEING A SCIENTIST!
AND A PHOTOGRAPHER!
AND SPIDER-MAN-- THOUGH I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS IT!
MAYBE LATER, SWEETIE! I'M HAVING A FEW LITTLE MONEY PROBLEMS WITH THE HOUSE!
THAT ONE'S PERFECT, MAY! BUY IT!
NOTHING TO WORRY PETER WITH-- BUT I REALLY CAN'T SPEND THE MONEY RIGHT NOW!

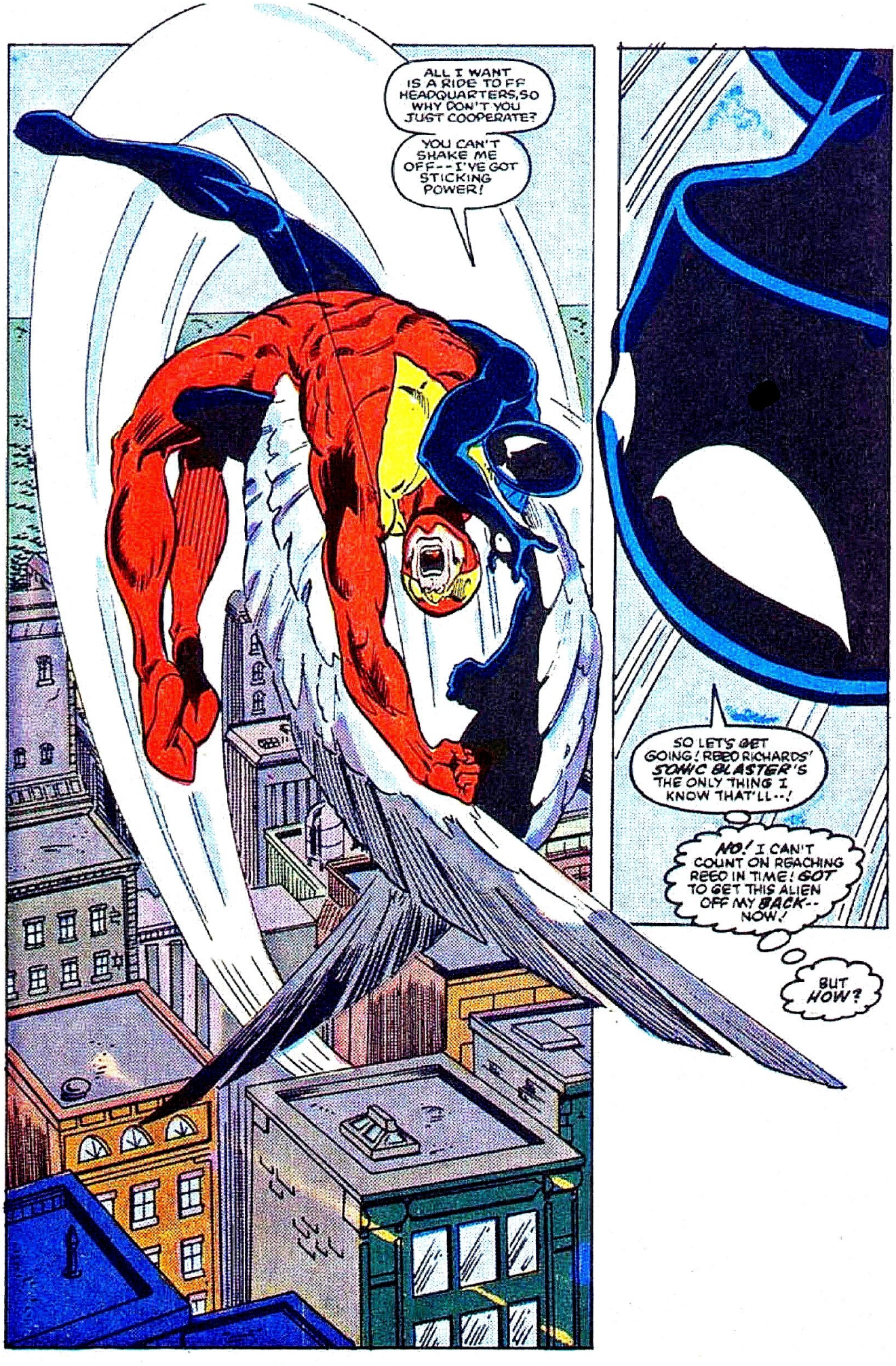

MEANWHILE...
HEY! LET ME GO YOU ALIEN CREEP! LET ME--!
WAIT! SURE I'M SCARED! BUT I CAN'T PANIC! IT'S THE PANIC THAT'S BEATING ME...NOT THE COSTUME!
HEY, GET OUTTA HERE, YOU COSTUMED LUNATIC! WHAT'RE YOU DOIN' OUT THERE, TWITCHIN' AN' MUMBLIN' TO YOURSELF?
YOU ON DRUGS OR WHAT? I'M WRITIN' THE BUGLE, IT'S A DISGRACE...
SHEESH!
THERE'S SPIDER-MAN! HONCHO SAID TO FIND HIM AND--
HEY, WHAT'S WROAG WITH HIM, ANYWAY? HE'S JERKIN' 'ROUND LIKE HE'S HAVIN' SOME KIND OF FIT!
SLAM!
DON'T ATTACK HIM, HONCHO SAID! JUST SIGNAL THE OTHER VULTURIONS WHEN I'VE FOUND HIM!
AN' KEEP MY EYE ON HIM TILL THEY ARRIVE!
DON'T PANIC! STAY CALM! THINK IT THROUGH! ASSESS THE SITUATION! I'M SMARTER THAN IT IS...
I HOPE!
AND I'VE STILL GOT THE PROPORTIONAL SPEED, AGILITY AND STRENGTH OF A SPIDER!
I CAN STILL STICK TO STUFF! ALL MY INNATE POWERS ARE INTACT!
EXCEPT MAYBE MY SPIDER SENSE! IF IT WAS WORKING, IT OUGHTA BE SHRIEKING!
WISH I HAD MY WEB SHOOTERS! TOUGH! IF I CAN'T SWING TO THE BAXTER BUILDING, I'LL JUST HAVE TO WALK THERE!
THE COSTUME CAN'T STOP ME FROM DOING THAT!

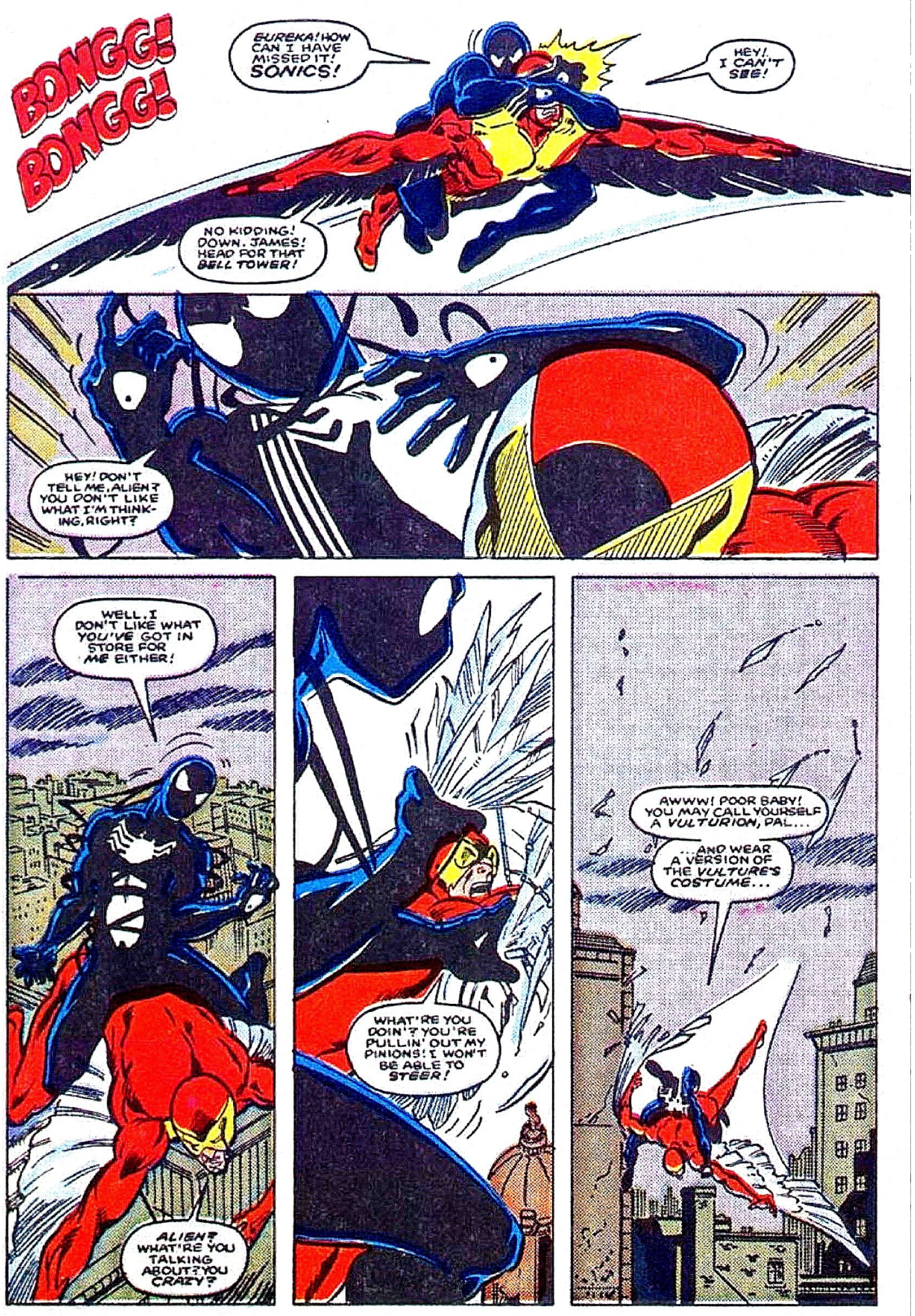

WRONG AGAIN, HUNH? YOU'RE A MIND-READER, RIGHT? IT FIGURES!
YOU KNEW MY THOUGHTS WELL ENOUGH TO OBEY MY MENTAL COMMANDS A WHILE BACK!
NO REASON THAT SHOULD STOP NOW!
SO YOU WON'T LET ME WALK, HUH? THEN LET'S SEE YOU STOP ME FROM HITCHING A RIDE!
I HAD TO ASK!
MY SPIDER-SENSE GOING OFF LIKE CRAZY! BUT WHY NOW?! AFTER I ALMOST FELL TO MY DEATH?

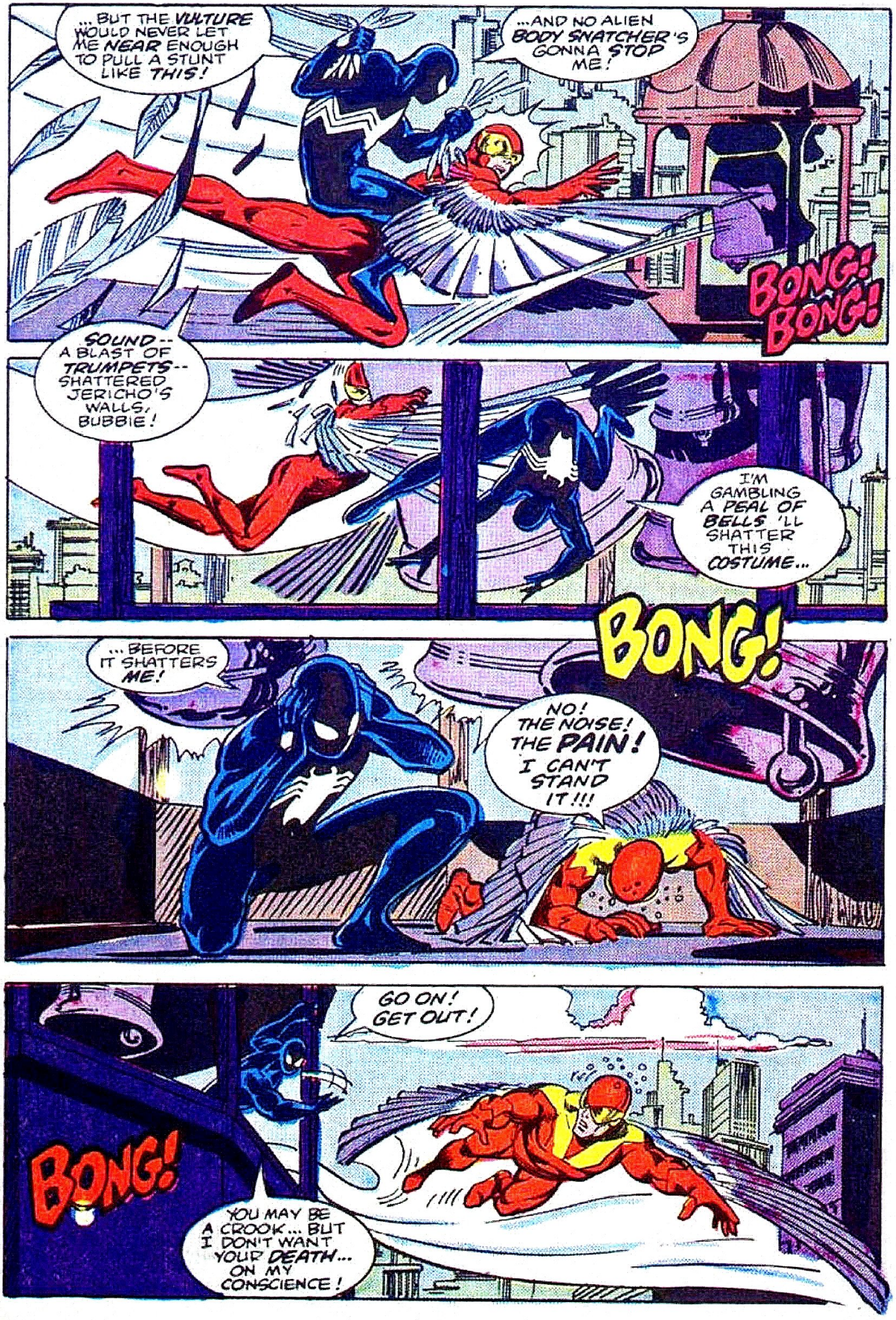
I HEARD YOU WERE HOT STUFF, SPIDER-MAN! BUT YOU'RE ACTIN' LIKE A DUDE ON A BAD TRIP!
BOSS SAID NOT TO TACKLE YOU ALONE, BUT WAITIN' FOR THE OTHER VULTURIONS'D BE A WASTE OF TIME!
THIS'LL TEACH ME NOT TO ASK QUESTIONS I'D JUST AS SOON NOT HAVE ANSWERED!
FRIENDS OF YOURS, ALIEN? HAPPY NOT THAT THEY'RE FLYING ME AWAY FROM THE BAXTER BUILDING?
ALIEN? WHAT ARE YOU, MAN, A PSYCHO? WHAT'RE YOU TALKIN' ABOUT?
THAT'S SOME WEIRD COSTUME YOU GOT THERE! IT'S WHIPPIN' 'ROUND LIKE IT'S ALIVE!
NO KIDDIN'? WHO ARE YOU, ANYWAY? AND WHAT'RE YOU DOING IN THE VULTURE'S COSTUME? ARE YOU WORKING WITH HIM?
YOU NOTICED, DID YOU? WELL, WHAT DO YOU THINK?
I HEARD YOU HERO-TYPES WERE STUCK UP, BUT THAT'S RIDICULOUS!
HONCHO SHOULD'A LET ME BRING THE GUN! BUT THE SHAPE YOU'RE IN, WHO NEEDS IT!
I'LL JUST FIND ME A TALL BUILDING TO SPLAT YOU AGAINST!
SHEESH! WHY DOES EVERY CROOK IN TOWN HAVE TO BE A STAND UP COMEDIAN?
T-THERE HE IS, HONCHO!
YEP! LOOKS LIKE YOU IGNORED ORDERS, GRIPES!
TOOK ON SPIDER-MAN ALL BY YOUR LONESOME! YOU'RE LUCKY YOU DIDN'T GET YOURSELF SPLATTERED ALL OVER THE PAVEMENT!

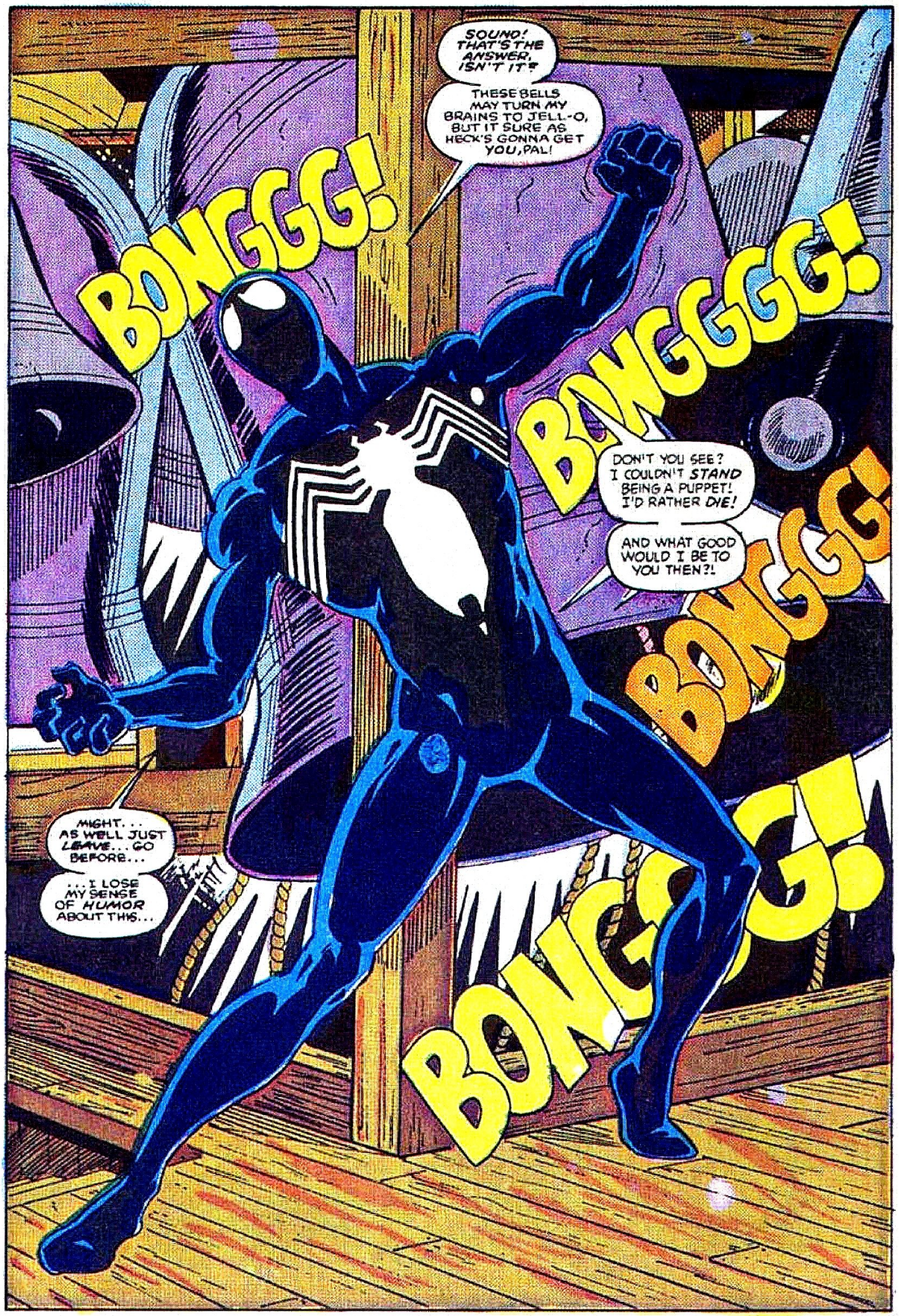

M-MAN, SOMETHIN' ABOUT THESE SUITS MAKES US S-STRONG...
...BUT I AIN'T NEVER THOUGHT O-ONE OF US COULD BEAT S-SPIDER-MAN SINGLE-HANDED!
IT'S NOT JUST US, PIGEON! IT'S HIS COSTUME! LOOK AT IT! IT'S GOT HIM HOG-TIED!
YEAH, HONCHO, I NOTICED THAT!
LONG AS HE'S IN A STRAIGHT JACKET, WANT ME TO TAKE HIM HIGH AS I CAN AND DROP HIM?
A FALL LIKE THAT WOULD KILL EVEN THE GREAT SPIDER-CREEP!
HEY! HELPPP!
DON'T LIKE THAT, DO YOU? IF I'M DEAD, WHO'LL BE YOUR PUPPET, RIGHT?
HONCHO! HELP! THE COSTUME! IT'S COMIN' AFTER ME!
WINGS AND A COMMAND OF THE OBVIOUS? A WINNING COMBO! WHO ARE YOU BOZOS?
AND HOW LONG HAVE I BEEN OUT?
BONGG! BONGG!
CHURCH TOWER'S RINGING VESPERS! WHAT TIME DOES THAT MAKE IT? FIVE? SIX?
GOT TO GET LOOSE! NOW!
BONGG! BONGG!
SHOOT, DARN YOU!
RATS! YOU DON'T WANT ME DEAD, BUT YOU WON'T HELP ME GET AWAY, EITHER, WILL YOU, ALIEN?
ALIEN?


GUESS WE'LL HAVE TO DO THIS THE OLD FASHIONED WAY!
CHOK!
BONGG! BONGG!
HONCHO! TROUBLE!
SUGAR FACE! PIGEON! HE'S KNOCKED GRIPES OUT!
NOW HE'S LEAPING--
OBSERVANT LAD! LOOK OUT BELOW!
WHAP!
ugh!
THREE DOWN! ONE TO GO!
TO THE BAXTER BUILDING, JAMES, AND DON'T SPARE THE HORSES!
BONGG! BONGG!
SPLASH!

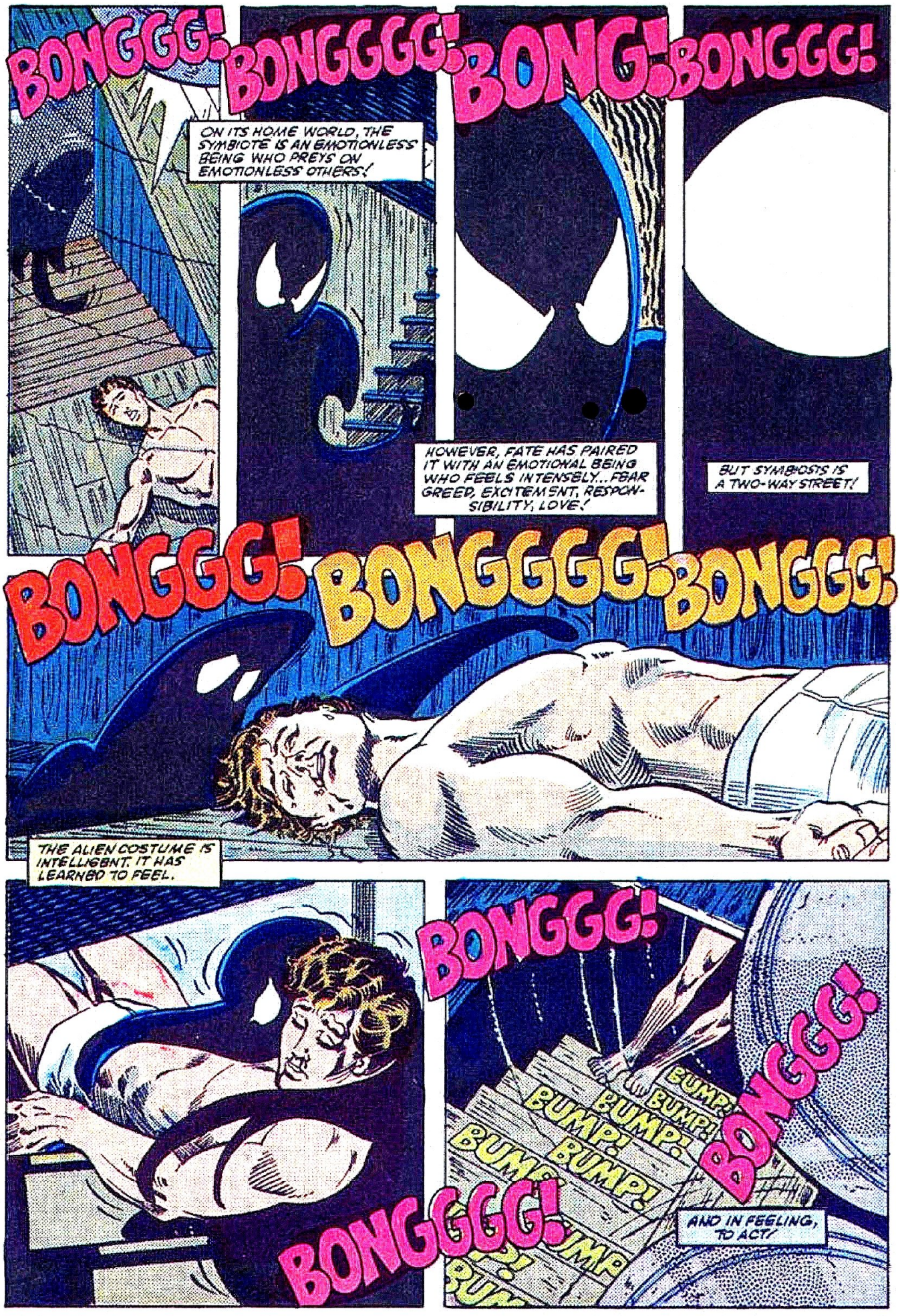

ALL I WANT IS A RIDE TO FF HEADQUARTERS, SO WHY DON'T YOU JUST COOPERATE?
YOU CAN'T SHAKE ME OFF--I'VE GOT STICKING POWER!
SO LET'S GET GOING! REED RICHARDS' SONIC BLASTER'S THE ONLY THING I KNOW THAT'LL--!
NO! I CAN'T COUNT ON REACHING REED IN TIME! GOT TO GET THIS ALIEN OFF MY BACK--NOW!
BUT HOW?

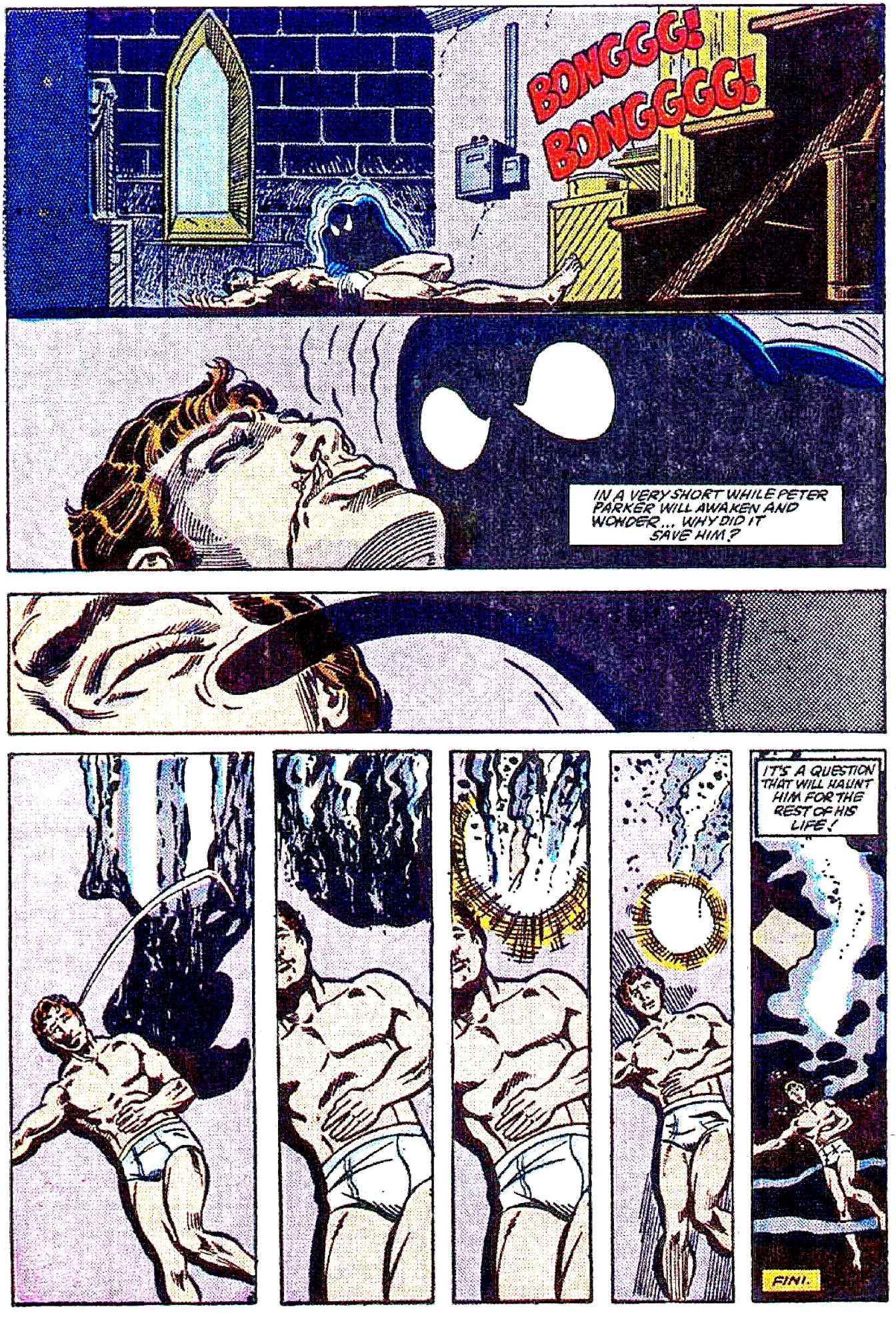

BONGG! BONGG!
EUREKA! HOW CAN I HAVE MISSED IT! SONICS!
HEY! I CAN'T SEE!
NO KIDDING! DOWN, JAMES! HEAD FOR THAT BELL TOWER!
HEY! DON'T TELL ME, ALIEN? YOU DON'T LIKE WHAT I'M THINKING, RIGHT?
WELL, I DON'T LIKE WHAT YOU'VE GOT IN STORE FOR ME EITHER!
ALIEN? WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT? YOU CRAZY?
WHAT'RE YOU DOIN'? YOU'RE PULLIN' OUT MY PINIONS! I WON'T BE ABLE TO STEER!
AWWW! POOR BABY! YOU MAY CALL YOURSELF A VULTURION, PAL...
...AND WEAR A VERSION OF THE VULTURE'S COSTUME...


... BUT THE VULTURE WOULD NEVER LET ME NEAR ENOUGH TO PULL A STUNT LIKE THIS!
...AND NO ALIEN BODY SNATCHER'S GONNA STOP ME!
BONG! BONG!
SOUND -- A BLAST OF TRUMPETS -- SHATTERED JERICHO'S WALLS, BUBBIE!
I'M GAMBLING A PEAL OF BELLS 'LL SHATTER THIS COSTUME...
BONG!
... BEFORE IT SHATTERS ME!
NO! THE NOISE! THE PAIN! I CAN'T STAND IT!!!
GO ON! GET OUT!
BONG!
YOU MAY BE A CROOK... BUT I DON'T WANT YOUR DEATH... ON MY CONSCIENCE!


SOUND! THAT'S THE ANSWER, ISN'T IT?
THESE BELLS MAY TURN MY BRAINS TO JELL-O, BUT IT SURE AS HECK'S GONNA GET YOU, PAL!
BONGGG!
BONGGGG!
BONGGG
BONGG!
DON'T YOU SEE? I COULDN'T STAND BEING A PUPPET! I'D RATHER DIE!
AND WHAT GOOD WOULD I BE TO YOU THEN?!
MIGHT... AS WELL JUST LEAVE... GO BEFORE...
...I LOSE MY SENSE OF HUMOR ABOUT THIS...

BONGGG!BONG
ONGGG
ONG!
FUNNY...
...CAN'T HELP THINKING ABOUT...
BONGGG!
BONG
BONGGGG
BONG!
...AUNT MAY...
AUNT MAY... MAD AT ME... FOR QUITTING GRAD SCHOOL! WISH I'D HAD THE CHANCE TO MAKE IT UP TO YOU... AUNT MAY...
BONGG!
HARRY'S BABY... MY GODSON... NEVER HAD... A GODSON BEFORE...
AN' MARY JANE... YOU KNEW... MORE THAN ANYONE... HOW DANGEROUS IT WOULD BE...
...TO LOVE SPIDER-MAN...
...'CAUSE ONE DAY... SOMETHIN' LIKE THIS... WAS BOUND TO HAPPEN...


BONGGG!
BONGGGG!
BONG!
BONGGG!
ON ITS HOME WORLD, THE SYMBIOTE IS AN EMOTIONLESS BEING WHO PREYS ON EMOTIONLESS OTHERS!
HOWEVER, FATE HAS PAIRED IT WITH AN EMOTIONAL BEING WHO FEELS INTENSELY...FEAR GREED, EXCITEMENT, RESPONSIBILITY, LOVE!
BUT SYMBIOSIS IS A TWO-WAY STREET!
BONGGG!
BONGGGG!
BONGGG!
THE ALIEN COSTUME IS INTELLIGENT. IT HAS LEARNED TO FEEL.
BONGGG!
BUMP!
BUMP!
BUMP!
BUMP!
BUMP!
BONGGG!
BONGGG!
AND IN FEELING, TO ACT!


BONGGG!
BONGGGG!
IN A VERY SHORT WHILE PETER PARKER WILL AWAKEN AND WONDER... WHY DID IT SAVE HIM?
IT'S A QUESTION THAT WILL HAUNT HIM FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE!
FINI.